

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, claims 1-4 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Machida (U.S. 2002/0166949 A1). Claims 5-8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and were otherwise indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 9-18, 20 and 21 were held withdrawn from further consideration as being directed to non-elected species.

The Examiner pointed out informalities in the specification and required correction thereof. The drawings filed with the application were accepted by the Examiner. The Examiner also acknowledged applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 and noted that certified copies of the priority documents have not yet been received.

In accordance with this response, claims 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 have been amended, and claims 1, 2, 5 and 9-21 have been canceled. The specification has been revised in editorial respects to correct informalities, including those noted by the Examiner, and to change "capacity" to --capacitor-- for consistency throughout the specification. A new, more descriptive abstract has been added.

Applicants and applicants' attorney appreciate the Examiner pointing out informalities in the specification and acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter concerning claims 5-8.

In order to expedite issuance of their patent, applicants have elected to accept the objected to but otherwise allowable claims. To this end, independent claim 3 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 5, thereby placing claim 3 in allowable form. In addition, the phrase "electric charge transfer means" has been changed to --electric charge transfer unit-- to be consistent with the description in the specification and to avoid implication of 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph, since no function is recited for the "means". Dependent claims 4 and 6-8 have been amended to conform to amended base claim 3 and to depend on claim 3 rather than canceled claim 5. In view of the Examiner's indication of allowability concerning dependent claim 5, which has now been incorporated into base claim 3, claim 3 together with dependent claims 4, 6, 7 and 8 are now in allowable form.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 9-21 have been canceled, leaving only allowable claims 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 pending in the application. Therefore the application is now believed to be in allowable form.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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March 21, 2006

Date